

TED STEVENS, ALASKA
GEORGE V. VOINOVICH, OHIO
NORM COLEMAN, MINNESOTA
TOM COBURN, OKLAHOMA
LINCOLN CHAFEE, RHODE ISLAND
ROBERT F. BENNETT, UTAH
PETE DOMENICI, NEW MEXICO
JOHN WARNER, VIRGINIA

JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN, CONNECTICUT
CARL LEVIN, MICHIGAN
DANIEL K. AKAKA, HAWAII
THOMAS R. CARPER, DELAWARE
MARK DAYTON, MINNESOTA
FRANK LAUTENBERG, NEW JERSEY
MARK PRYOR, ARKANSAS

MICHAEL D. BOPP, STAFF DIRECTOR AND CHIEF COUNSEL
JOYCE A. RECHTSCHAFFEN, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR AND COUNSEL

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

December 15, 2005

James Gerber
Chief Financial Officer
Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation
1200 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-4026

Dear Mr. Gerber:

We are writing in regard to your agency's compliance with the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (IPIA). The Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation did not discuss compliance with IPIA in its recently released 2005 Performance and Accountability Report. We are concerned that even 3 years after enactment of IPIA, the first step toward reducing and eliminating improper payments --doing a risk assessment of programs-- has still not yet been taken.

As part of our oversight of the effectiveness and efficiency of Federal financial management, our Subcommittee needs to have the best data available so that we know what work on improper payments remains to be done. Risk assessments and estimates of improper payments must be completed in order to achieve compliance with IPIA. Until we have those from each agency --as required under law- we cannot carry out oversight in a thorough manner. The ultimate goal is to eliminate improper payments in federal agencies and illustrate impeccable stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

In order to work with your agency in achieving full compliance with IPIA, we ask that you provide detailed answers to the following questions for the non-compliant programs mentioned above:

- 1) What obstacles have prevented your agency from providing estimates of improper payments in fiscal years 2002 through 2005?
- 2) When will you have estimates of improper payments available?
- 3) What steps are you taking, even in the absence of estimates, to reduce the risk of improper payments at your agency?

Please provide and return the requested information to

Liz Scranton, Chief Clerk
Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and
International Security
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
439 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Please contact Robin Landauer with Senator Coburn's staff at 202.224.2254 or John
Kilvington with Senator Carper's staff at 202.224.7061 with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Coburn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" and last name "Coburn" clearly distinguishable.

Tom Coburn
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Financial
Management, Government Information,
and International Security

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Carper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tom" and last name "Carper" clearly distinguishable.

Tom Carper
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Federal Financial
Management, Government Information,
and International Security